

MOVE OF GOD SERIES

READINESS FOR GOD'S MOVE

We are going to look into God's Word and see what causes revival and how to move with God when God moves. There are laws and principles in the bible that we have to flow along when God moves. A revival is a manifestation of God's presence that He gives to us so that we could continue to walk on from there. The move of the Spirit can never replace the teaching of His Word or being established in His Word. Neither does the workings of His Word replace the move of the Spirit. We need to always combine the Word and the Spirit.

Lets look in the book of Leviticus 9:1-4 *It came to pass on the eighth day that Moses called Aaron and his sons and the elders of Israel. And he said to Aaron, "Take for yourself a young bull as a sin offering and a ram as a burnt offering, without blemish, and offer them before the Lord. And to the children of Israel you shall speak saying, "Take a kid of the goats as a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb, both of the first year, without blemish as a burnt offering. Also a bull and a ram as peace offerings to sacrifice before the Lord, and a grain offering mixed with oil; for today the Lord will appear to you."*

It's interesting here that Moses is speaking to Aaron about a special manifestation of the Lord. We know that these are the times of the tabernacle where everyday they can see God's presence over above the tabernacle of the Lord. For it was a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night. So everyday they can see God's presence over above the tabernacle of meeting where the ark of God was and where it was laid. But God was speaking to Aaron about a special manifestation. And surprisingly even though God promised a manifestation, there is an order by which

you still have to approach God. Moses said to Aaron that God is going to appear to him, but before He does so He wants him to do some things and he gave all the instructions.

I wondered how many of us have heard the Spirit of God or perhaps a prophecy that came in your prayer meeting that said, "The Lord is going to meet with you. The Lord is going to appear to you. The Lord is going to do something." I remember that months before the Lord appeared to me on January 1986 I had a sort of feeling in my life that God was going to manifest something. You know that God is going to manifest. You sort of know that something special manifestation of God is in store.

In the same way before God manifest, before God gives His special appearance and presence like He gave to Aaron over and above what He normally does, there are some indications of what He wants to do. He told Moses in advance and He will speak to your spirit. Sometimes you sensed that something special is going to happen in your prayer meeting. Sometimes you sensed something is going to happen in your home fellowship. But remember this just because you sensed it alone doesn't mean it's going to happen. What you sensed is only the first part.

God told Moses, "I am going to appear to Aaron. I am going to show My glory to him." But He is not going to automatically appear. Don't confuse the word automatic with a revival. A revival has something to do with man and something to do with God, not just only all of God or only all of man. Perhaps God has been dealing in your family and saying, "I am going to do something special in your life. I am going to manifest My grace upon your life, something good is going to happen." When you know that something good has to do with some special blessing, some special manifestation, don't sit back and relax. It's the worst thing you could ever do. Don't sit back on your laurels and say, "Well, God said it, I believe it and that settles it. I am doing nothing about that." You will receive nothing. I wonder how many people have missed God because of that attitude. I wonder how many promises of manifestation have been missed and aborted because the people had sat back and relaxed when that's the time they were supposed to do more for God. What did they do? God will speak to your life from time to time. He is not going to appear to you continually all the time and keep you

slain under the power for twenty four hours for three hundred and sixty five days a year because you won't be a human being any more. You might as well go up and be an angel. No, God will not allow you to evade your natural responsibilities, your work and your calling that you have to do.

After He appeared to Aaron, the glory of God withdrew and he has to go about doing his work. But there is something that he kept - a greater presence of God. Every time God manifests, do you know what happen? You have a greater presence of God. There is something that cannot be taken away from my life ever since Jesus appeared. The awareness of His presence is everywhere I go. The more you have a manifestation of Jesus in your life the greater your sense of His presence. Every one of us carries inside us an inward sense of His presence. But we carry that sense to different degrees. Some of us sense His presence to that much perhaps one volt some of us two volts, some of us as hundred volts. There are different degrees of His presence and consciousness we carry.

The wonderful thing about balancing the Word and the Spirit is this. If all you have is the Word, do you know what you lose? You lose that freshness. You lose that touch. And all you have is a lot of knowledge boiling up but the acute sense of His presence is missing. The other extreme is when you are aware of His presence but you seldom read the Word. Or if you are aware of His presence but you are weak in the Word, you will grow to a certain extend but you will find that at a certain point you become stunted. Even common experience becomes stale. Christmas turkey tastes nice once a year. But if you have it everyday, you will be so sick of turkey that you never want to see a turkey again. Good food tastes nice but you can't have it everyday. I know sometimes just out of an expression people says, "I could have that everyday," but you know in our heart that's not what you mean. If you have that everyday, you would get sick of it. I read about how one father wanted to get his children off ice cream. He got ice-cream everyday, ice cream for lunch, ice cream for dinner. And for one week, all they ate was ice cream. After a week, the children said, "Please, no more ice-cream." And good food that tantalizes all your sensory organs is not good anymore when you have it all the time.

In the same way, the manifestations of God are periodic. They are periodic to

freshen us up and then we go back to the Word. Then we go to His manifestation and then we go back to the Word. So, in the same measurement God will manifest to you from time to time. Do you know that even though He appeared in a vision to you last year or two years ago He still wants to appear to you. He still wants to meet and talk with you. Even recently, when He talked to me after my New Zealand trip, He talked to me about what He wanted to do in Asia. He continues to talk to you. He tells you what He wants to do and you flow along with His plan. Yesterday's manna is no good for today. But yesterday's manna can give you some lessons, some principles that will be good for today. So in the same way remember there will be an ongoing experience.

When was the last time you had an experience with God? When was the last time you wept in His love? That was about twenty years ago. When was the last time that you sang with all your heart privately to God with tears running down your cheeks to commit to Him? You do not commit yourself to Christ only once. The prayer of dedication is a prayer you have to say everyday. But there special times where He draws you with His presence. And those must not be too few and far apart. It is just like lovers who meet each other too infrequently. Absence can make the hearts grow fonder but out of sight, out of mind. Every English proverb has its opposite. So there is a certain separation where you don't contact or write to even your loved one, your friend, your husband, your wife, see what happen. You contact each other to let the love blossom. We realize that there is such a thing as a period of separation that does make your heart grow fonder. But then there is a certain too much of it doing the same thing everyday it becomes no more special. So there is a balance between the special occasion and the normal occasion to keep the fire of love burning.

In the same way, when God has His relationship with us He balances between the Word and the Spirit. We need to understand that God wants to have a meeting with you from time to time. I do not think that it's going to be once in your lifetime. Neither do I think that it's going to be once in ten years. Possibly several times a year if not several times a month, God wants to have a meeting with you where He rekindles your love and your spirit in Him to keep the fire burning. So, if you have not had one for the last twenty to thirty years than afterwards when we sing a song you come right up and repent. You may possibly be in a backslidden condition. So that's the first thing we see God will make a special appointment with you or give

you special times when He witnesses in your spirit.

When God says, "I am going to appear to you," some people take it lightly. When God says that, one of the things that we have to do to prepare for His meeting is to do more of the spirit realm and clothe ourselves in the Spirit. Get ready for what He is about to do. So that when He comes, you are ready. If you show up with mud all over you, God takes one look at you and says, "You are not ready for My meeting at all." And what God has promised He couldn't fulfill because it was conditional. You didn't meet His condition when you meet with Him. If He ever manifest in your condition He will burn everything up that is imperfect including you. So, that is why in His mercy He withheld Himself even though He has said He will meet with us.

Notice that when He has said that to Aaron about what He wants to do, Aaron and the children of Israel had to do special offerings. It says in verse two he has the sin offering, the burnt offering. Then in verse three that day all the children of Israel also have to give special offering. Now Aaron and the children of Israel in that context are related. In other words, Aaron was going to establish the priesthood for the first time. For the first time God is going to manifest the priesthood. And so, the priesthood is for the benefit of the Israelites. And so, the Israelites and Aaron were like one big family.

When God speaks to you that He is going to meet you and perhaps, you are the father of the house. You know what you should do. Get the rest of your family members ready. They are the children of Israel in our context. When God speaks to you as a mother or as a wife He is going tell you to tell your husband, tell your children that God says He is going to meet with me at such and such a time. We all get ready for that. Otherwise, your own family members may hinder you to get that touch from God because a distraction will come right at that time. If you remember Anthony's son, Eugene was sharing how when Jesus appeared to him in his room, He was sitting on his bed talking to him. Right at that time the mother came and knocked on the door, "Eugene go and hang up the clothes." Jesus was right there and the mother wants Eugene to hang up the clothes. What is Eugene going to say, "Jesus wait for me. Wait for me to hang up the clothes." You know what happened. Eugene didn't reply, didn't say anything. She knocked several times and didn't

know what was happening inside. I talked to the mother and she said, "I didn't know what was going on." Praise God Eugene didn't go and hang the clothes. God continued to talk to him and prepared him for the ministry. That was just an incident that was not so bad. At least there was no interruption. But it could be worse. Good thing the door was locked. I wonder what would have happened if the door was not locked.

How many of you when you are so deep in God in His presence and the voice of God is so clear it's just like someone sitting next to you and talking to you. You are talking to God, God is talking to you and there comes this phone call. Usually if I am praying I will tell my family to tell them, "I am praying; please, no disturbances at all." My family understands what happen if somebody doesn't understand and the phone start ringing. Urgent, very urgent. We found out that some of the very urgent calls were not urgent at all. The interruption comes when you are in the presence of God. So that is why it's important that when God speaks to you, tell it to those who are close to you. Get them to be a part and parcel like getting the children of Israel ready. So that when God manifest you won't be interrupted.

In the same way if you know that you have rented an auditorium and you know God is going to move that day, what must you do? Tell the people whom you rented the auditorium from, "Please on that day we may want to go on and on for several hours after that." Otherwise, you know what may happen. At ten sharp, they switch off the lights just when Jesus was about to appear. You did not get those floor managers and technicians involved in what God wants to do at the meeting. So prepare, tell, get it organized for God to show up. Most of us are caught that way. It should never be that way. You would sense in your spirit that God is going to do something. And you will be able to prepare. You could pull the phone off the hook or tell your loved ones, "I sense or I know or I perceive that God is going to say something to me during this time. Please see that I am not disturbed." People will be most willing to co-operate with you. But you need to get them organized.

That was what Moses got all the Israelites. The Israelites all have to give special offering that day. They also had to give a sin offering, they had to give a burnt

offering. Do you notice there are two things sin offering and burnt offering. Sin offering represents those things that are not lawful. Burnt offering represents those things that are not expedient that you got to give to God. A burnt offering is voluntary, a sin offering is involuntary, and it's compulsory. When God says He wants to appear to you it doesn't mean you sit back and do nothing. It means you have to examine any area that you have broken God's laws. Get that sin offering the blood of Jesus to cover you. Secondly, get rid of those things that are inexpedient. Perhaps you are due for a vacation. Right at the same time, that Jesus wants to appear to your life. Cancel that vacation. Your burnt offering is going to wake you up more than ever before. Or it will wake you up in the middle of the night to spend time with God. Or going aside during a certain in your daytime and getting prepared in God. A lot of gifts, a lot of signs and a lot of wonders have been missed when people didn't prepare themselves.

Let me tell you the story of William Branham. He had a tremendous call of God. All his life he felt strangeness because he knew that God has something in his life and he couldn't put together what it was. Until one day he told his wife and said, "I can't stand it any more. There is something odd, special, and peculiar. I don't understand all these things. There are strange things happening in my life. Strange manifestation but I don't understand what it is." And he took a flask of water and said, "I am going into that forest and I am not coming back again until God speaks to me about what these strange things are about." He went, he fasted, and he prayed. And during that time, an angel appeared to him and told him about his life. He told him about the two signs that God will always work in his life.

As I read that story, what came to my mind is this - what would have happened if he didn't go aside and wait on the Lord? He would have lived and died without manifesting one tenth of what God wants to do in his life. Would God have permitted it? Yes, because He has given a free will to him. A lot of us have gifts and callings that God has on our lives with signs and wonders that God wants to do in our lives. Unfortunately we are not serious enough, we are not dedicated enough, to be willing to get aside with God and say, "God let me once and for all find out all these things that You want to do in my life." We do not find out what instrument God wants to use in our life and the kind of capabilities He wants to work through our lives."

And after he came out from there, William Branham was a different man. Every time he ministers, he would always wait for the angel to come. When the angel comes, he never missed it; he will tell you your name, your address and tell you what problem you are having. He never missed it because he ministered with a visual angel. What happens if he didn't get aside and get an answer from God? He would have lived with a set of tools that are not properly used. Sometimes God has given you spiritual tools and spiritual gifts that are sharp, that are super, but unless you get aside with God and find out what those tools are you will be living the rest of your life not really using the tools like what you want. It would be like somebody giving you a brand new car. And you took it and decorate it and you put it in your garage as a decoration. In the same way, God gives us gifts but sometimes we are not making full use of the gifts that God has given onto us because we have not taken a time aside to find out the gifts and the calling of God that he has on our life.

So the second thing they did was prepare. Send a burnt offering plus several others special offering as in verse 4 *also a bull and a ram as peace offerings*. The bull and the ram represent those things that you do during that time that God wants to manifest to you. Just like if you know before hand that God wants to do something in your life so you began to prepare yourself for a month. Finally, it came to the D-day that God and you are to meet. Perhaps you fasted for forty days and forty nights. And you know God called you to that fast. And so, for thirty-nine days you fasted and went about doing your work. And this was the fortieth day you have to do something that is likened to the bull and the ram. In other words, take that day off if you can. It is a special day and gives the entire day to the Lord. Some people fasted for forty days and forty nights and everyday was the same. No, it's not the same. Your beginning and conclusion are always special. Because when you do something for God, the beginning and the conclusion are always special. Your first day of the fast is most important and the rest of the way is battle. And the last day of your fast is vitally important. Now all that you have been doing for thirty-nine days have been very good, very dedicated, you really have been sacrificial. But what you do on your fortieth day must be super sacrificial. In other words, everyday you have been working and spending about four hours everyday with God. Then on that day, you take leave and you consecrate your whole life to God morning till night. Then some of you who have been saying that God did not speak to you in that fast begin to find He does speak to you.

But the difference is that you didn't know these principles. And you got the burnt offering and the sin offering done but the bull and the ram offering represent what you do during that time He is going to meet with you. The others are the background. Now we are talking about the very day He is going to meet with you. Remember God is very particular about that. He told Moses to come out early and meet with Him on the mountain. He told Elijah to go to a certain mountain and meet with Him. Elijah also knows that God sometimes make His meeting place at this mountain, at that mountain. Perhaps on the last three days of your fast you took leave to go out to a mountain away from your family, away from everything to be alone with God. You remember the sins offering, you remember the burnt offering but you forgot the bull and the ram offering what you are supposed to do during the time He is going to meet with you. Do you expect God to meet with you in the supermarket? On the fortieth of your fast, you went to the supermarket to do shopping because on the forty first day you are going to eat. Of all days that is the day He planned to meet with you and you are out there in the supermarket. He is not going to appear to you while you are going around the supermarket.

What you want to do is to offer your bull and ram offering. You know that is the conclusion. That's the time you get yourself ready for Him to appear. Just like one housewife, I call her Mrs. J. She told me of this experience one day. How she was really hungry and thirsty for God. One day she got up early and then she set a table as if Jesus was going to come that day. I don't encourage that every one of you do the same method. That was the method she happened to use. So, that day she woke up early. She cleans the house as if Jesus was going to walk into the house physically. She cooks the best meal ever as if Jesus was going to come. After she set everything she knelt down and said, "Dear Lord, this is the day for Your welcome." She said she felt a cold wind starting to blow. And she felt a presence like she never felt before and she wept and cried, she wept, she cried. The only thing she didn't do is eating.

Like I said if you got experiences, it will remain with you all your life. If you know you are going to spend time with God, where do you want God to appear to you? Do you have a suitable place and time? Are there going to be physical logistic problem in Him meeting you. Set it apart as if He is going to meet you physically.

Then you will never ever say again He didn't keep His appointment. He always does. But we must do our part. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you.

Notice here when Aaron had done everything as required of him in verse 8, 9, 10 etc. Then verse 15 he brought the people's offering. Do you know how much work was done from verse 8 to verse 22? So, they went to great trouble to have the Lord meet with them. Have you gone to much trouble to have the Lord meet with you? Or do you have a couldn't-care-less attitude. The Lord wants to meet with me, so what? That kind of attitude will not engender a good relationship with the Lord. After all those hard work, God rewarded him in verse 23 *Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.*

Every time before I minister, I ask the Lord what He wants to do. Sometimes He had shown me exactly what He wants to do in the service. Then the Lord's glory appeared. There is nothing like the Lord keeping His appointment with you. There is nothing like a revival God promised to your life. I sensed in my spirit that God wants to deal with your life and want to make an appointment in your life. Of course, we do meet with God while we gather together every Sunday but there are some things that can only come between you and God. There are some situations that only you and God can get together and be alone together. No one, no human vessel should stand between you and Jesus Christ. That's where may God grant you the grace to be able to meet with Him.